



FCRB Program Status Report State Board Meeting – September 2020

1. Dashboard and Other Data

a. Number of Reviews Conducted

	Number of Youth Reviewed *	Number of Review Slots
FY 2018	2,055	1,364
FY 2019	1,876	1,243
FY2020	1,867	1,289

(*) Not a unique number of children as some children have more than one review in a year.

Number of unique children reviewed in FY20 was 1,240;
ICAB's annual report will note the unique number of children reviewed.

b. IP Participation at Reviews

The Dashboard tracks on overall participation by Interested Parties at the reviews held in a given month. Quarterly reports are generated and provided to DHS SWAs and SAMs and available for ICAB staff.

	DHS			All Other Interested Parties		
	Attendance	Written or Recorded	Total	Attendance	Written or Recorded	Total
July 2020**	NA	96%	96%	NA	29%	29%
Aug 2020**	-	-	92%	-	-	22%

(**) July boards were paper only;

(**) August = some in person, some paper only so only total participation is noted.

c. Timeliness of FCRB Report Distribution

Per the DIA-DHS MOU, Timeliness of review reports: In 90% of the foster care cases reviewed by a LFCRB, LFCRB review reports will be provided to the juvenile court, DHS caseworker and all interested parties within 15 days of the foster care administrative review pursuant to Iowa Code §237.20(2)(a).

- FY'20 - 100%
- FY'21 to date - 100% each month

2. LFCRB Rationale Statements

Rationale statements are prepared by local program coordinators for new and reappointed local board members. September statements are pending. For the current fiscal year to date, the State Board has reviewed and approved:



- New local board members – 0
- Reappointments – 2

3. Resuming In Person FCRB Meetings

There are currently 24 local boards reviewing cases of children in foster care in 49 counties.

- August – 7 of 16 scheduled boards met in person following CDC guidelines.
- September – 12 of 16 scheduled boards will meet in person

Some coordinators have secured alternate meeting locations in order for local boards to meet in person. In person attendance by interested parties remains low; we recognize that the ongoing pandemic, as well as the recent storm in the Cedar Rapids area, continue to impact in person attendance.

4. FY21 Program Priorities

The FCRB Program Committee met on August 26, 2020 to set priority projects for this current fiscal year. Priority projects include:

- Developing a virtual review process that includes participation by Interested Parties. In some areas, we are experiencing quorum issues due to volunteers not being comfortable returning to in-person reviews and in some areas, the meeting locations are not yet open for public use. Interested Parties have also requested to participate virtually or to have youth in group care facilities participate virtually.

Issues to consider include:

- Maintaining confidentiality of the case information; requiring each participant to sign/submit an Informed Consent for FCRB Online Meetings.
- Determining process steps for scheduling and communicating with Interested Parties.
- Providing materials/guidance to the FCRB Facilitators and Board Members on how to execute a virtual meeting with interested parties.
- Pilot this process with a few local boards before allowing this to be utilized in other areas.

- Continued strategies to build relationships with child welfare partners and interested parties to increase participation in the local review process.
- Review of Iowa Code 237.18 – 237.20 to identify potential legislative changes, as well as a review of the Child Advocacy Board Administrative Rules. Areas of concerns include, but are not limited to:
 - Consideration of having board term limits for local board members
 - Updating training requirements for state and local board members
 - Updating the reporting requirements of 237.18(2)(b) regarding the accumulation of data for children in foster care.
- Revision of the FCRB Pre-Service Training – current training is outdated in terms of applicable laws and changes that have been made to the process. A subcommittee of five staff has been formed to begin this project.
- Exploration of starting citizen reviews in Jasper and Floyd county; as well as proceeding with exploration of starting pilot citizen review boards in Polk County to review cases of children with the permanency goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA).